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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/564,087      | 01/11/2006  | Shingo Chiba         | 050853              | 7305             |

23850 7590 08/01/2006

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

TA, THO DAC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                                      |                                     |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/564,087 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>CHIBA ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>Tho D. Ta         | <b>Art Unit</b><br>2833             |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 January 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/11/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. Figure 9 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagai (6,619,963).

In regard to claim 1, Nagai discloses an electric equipment module structure comprising a case 10 having a base 11 and a cover 22, wherein the case 10 being disposed a terminal 21, an electric wire 20 connecting the terminal 21 being arranged in

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the base 11, a cutout portion 15 being disposed in the base 11 to bend and guide out the electric wire 20, an illuminant 35 is disposed in the case 10, the terminal 21 being electrically conducted to the illuminant 35, and an outside opening of the cutout portion 15 being closed by the cover 22 from above.

In regard to claim 2, Nagai discloses a projection (between members 22a, see fig. 6) pressing the electric wire 20 at the cutout portion is disposed, the electric wire 20 being bent along the projection (see fig. 1).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beukes (6,299,472) in view of Lin (6,705,901).

In regard to claim 1, Beukes discloses an electric equipment module structure comprising a case 10 having a base 12 and a cover 14, wherein the case 10 being disposed a terminal 104, 106, an electric wire 132, 134 connecting the terminal 104, 106 being arranged in the base 12, a cutout portion (between side walls 40 and 50) being disposed in the base 12 to bend and guide out the electric wire 132, 134, and an outside opening of the cutout portion being closed by the cover 14 from above (see figures 3-6).

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However, Beukes does not disclose an illuminant is disposed in the case, and the terminal being electrically conducted to the illuminant.

Lin discloses an illuminant is disposed in the case for indicating electrical connection of the connector 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Beukes's invention by adding an illuminant in the case as disclosed by Lin in order to provide the electric equipment module with indicating provision, thus providing a versatile electric equipment module.

In regard to claim 2, Beukes discloses a projection 70 pressing the electric wire 132, 134 at the cutout portion is disposed, the electric wire 132, 134 being bent along the projection.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beukes and Lin as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Krauss et al. (6,280,253).

In regard to claim 3, Beukes discloses the base 12 and cover 14 having a connection portion 42, 44 and 96, 98 at one end, respectively.

However, Beukes does not disclose a connected portion at another end and a plurality of cases being possible to connect mutually.

Krauss et al. discloses a connected portion 84, 86 and a plurality of covers 72 being possible to connect mutually (see fig. 3).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Beukes's invention by adding the connected portion as disclosed by Krause et al. to the base and the cover in order to connect a plurality of modules together, thus preventing the modules from separating during transportation.

In regard to claim 3, Beukes discloses that the connection portion 42, 44, 96, 98 biases the base and cover to the closing direction.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tho D. Ta whose telephone number is (571) 272-2014. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



THO D. TA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tdt  
07/26/06